

I am appalled by the flagrant disregard of the responsibilities of airwave stewardship exhibited by big companies like Sinclair Broadcasting. Their decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. It's very wrong.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But this recent ploy to air obviously political propaganda violates that responsibility. When large companies control the airwaves, we too readily are served up programming that some faraway somebody thinks will be good for the bottom line rather than a balanced mix of perspectives which informs our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.